

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01592 122331Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 OES-05 NSF-02 SSO-00 /022 W
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O 122206Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3417

UNCLAS BOGOTA 1592

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: TGEN, CO

SUBJ: S/T CONFERENCE

REF: BOGOTA 1288, STATE 017393, BOGOTA 0875, CONN-BROWN

TELECON OF FEB. 10

1. DR. ROJAS HAS RECEIVED TICKET TO TRAVEL TO AND
FROM SUBJECT CONFERENCE. TICKET AS CABLED WAS VALID FOR ONE
YEAR AT A COST OF \$490.00 PLUS \$3.00 U. S. TAX
PLUS \$30.00 COLOMBIAN TAX TOTALING \$523.00. WE CHANGED
TICKET TO EXCURSION FARE (MINIMUM/AVAILULLE) GOOD
FOR 150 DAYS WHICH COST \$384.00 PLUS \$3.00 U. S. TAX PLUS
\$21.12 COLOMBIAN TAX. TOTALING \$408.12 OR A SAVING
OF \$114.88.

2. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO REACH DR. PIEDRAHITA AND ASK
HIM TO CHECK HIS TICKET TO SEE IF A SIMILAR ERROR WAS
MADE AND, IF SO, TO CHANGE HIS TICKET. UNFORTUNATELY
DR. BELTRAN HAS ALREADY DEPARTED FOR THE U. S. TO ATTEND
AN INDUSTRIAL FAIR IN CHICAGO. YOU MAY WISH TO CHECK
TICKETS OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS TO DETERMINE IF ERROR WAS
REPEATED THROUGHOUT. WE UNDERSTAND TICKETS CANNOT BE
CHANGED ONCE TRAVEL COMMENCES.

3. PER COMM-BROWN TELECON, WE TOLD ROJAS TO APPLY FOR
REIMBURSEMENT OF COLOMBIAN EXIT AND AIRPORT TAXES AT
CONFERENCE. LESS THAN NORMAL PER DIEM OF \$30.00 PER
DAY AS OPPOSED TO USUAL \$40.00 PER DAY FOR IV OF GRANTEES.
GIVEN \$24.00 PER DAY HOTEL BILL, WILL ASSURE OUT-OF-
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POCKET EXPENSES FOR PARTICIPANTS. WHILE THIS PERSONAL

COST MAY BE ABSORBED MORE EASILY BY SOME PARTICIPANTS
THAN OTHERS, DR. ROJAS WILL EXPERIENCE HARDSHIP. EMBASSY
WOULD HOPE THAT DR. ROJAS' APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT
OF TRAVEL COSTS WOULD BE VIEWED SYMPATHETICALLY,
ESPECIALLY SINCE WE HAVE ALREADY SAVED \$114.88 ON COST
OF HIS TRANSPORTATION. IF TICKET ERROR WAS REPEATED
THROUGHOUT AND COULD BE CORRECTED, SAVINGS OF ALMOST
\$2,000.00 COULD RESULT WHICH COULD EVEN ALLOW
LIBERALIZATION OF PER DIEM.

VAKY

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